

Minutes

Present: Joachim Marthinsen, Henrik Jensen, Vidar Grøtan, Veerle Jaspers, Rasmus Ern, Siv Anina Etter, Daniela Sueldo, Stacy Ivanova, Lena Van Giesen, Glauca Frago, Atle Bones

Not present: Augustine Arukwe, Ana Sirovic

Copy to:

Subject: RC-meeting

Time of meeting: 14.00

Place: DU2-150

Signature:

1) Feedback on suggested alternative new department structures at the NV-faculty

Henrik showed slides with the alternative department structures, with comments from the administration, technical staff, and sections at IBI.

Points that came up during our discussion:

- We need to know what the costs of reorganizing are, and how the costs differ between the suggested alternatives. The descriptions of different department models now only mention some really tiny possible economic savings, but nothing about all the costs involved, related to e.g. moving, rebuilding rooms, lost time and focus for research and teaching, frustrations of staff.
- Any fusions with IBI will be a loss for basic biology teaching and basic research for us. Our students need to be properly educated by research-based teaching in the basic disciplines before they specialize.
- Another risk with merging is that any replacements of positions will need to be shared between localities (former smaller departments), and a risk is then that our current focus areas will be diluted or disappear.
- It is not correct that any Ålesund-people who join IBI "will be integrated as done for the Gløshaugen, TBS and Sealab parts of IBI" (as suggested in the feedback from the Marine Section). It will be impossible to integrate anyone in another city in the same way as we see for the within-Trondheim parts of IBI, and any group at IBI not located in Trondheim would need to have a separate leadership and management structure.
- If merged with Ålesund, some important teaching at IBI will be online. This should be avoided because generating a good learning environment (especially with student active learning activities) and ensuring that students reach the learning goals is extremely challenging and resource-demanding with online teaching.

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- The fish behaviour/aquaculture parts of IBA overlap more with respect to research at IBT than IBI.
- A potential benefit of merging could perhaps be that there will be more opportunities for duty-work for PhD-students? Such opportunities should in any case be investigated, for example with the Department of Biotechnology (Henrik will anyway take this up in the Leader group).
- For any department structure it is important that BSc- and MSc-level teaching happens within the same department (this could be important also for IKJ and IKP).
- We should probably not completely disregard the possibility of having only three departments. There could be benefits of teaching coordination, especially in the molecular/cell/biotechnology fields, and other universities have departments of similar size (e.g. the Department of Biosciences at the University of Oslo).
- One suggestion that came up was that it seems natural that IBF should merge with the Department of Clinical and Molecular Medicine, which is at the MH-faculty and hence is outside the NV-faculty.
- Regardless of the department structure we choose, it will be difficult to avoid any overlap in research between groups across the departments, so is this a good argument for merging?
- To summarize:
 - o Given that some change in department structure needs to happen, model 5A is recommended from the RC (but be aware of and estimate costs/drawbacks of reorganization before the any process starts).
 - o This will give some administration-benefits (more robust groups and better working environment) by having more full positions for administrative staff.
 - o This will not affect IBI directly.
 - o But can we really have strong opinions on what happens with other departments?

2) Input on the draft announcement text for a new Associate professor position in Animal Physiology

Lena explained the Animal Physiology section's reasoning. They have made the advertisement broad, and did not want to narrow it down to ensure attracting high-quality interesting candidates. The RC members gave some suggestions and comments on the advertisement which Henrik will compile in the advertisement document and send to Kjetil, who will send our comments to the Animal Physiology section along with input and comments from the Teaching Committee. The final version will be checked by the DEI (komite for likestilling og mangfold) at IBI.

3) Evaluation of PhD travel grant applications for 2024

We received four applications before the deadline. We agreed that three of them (Aksel Fosse, Alexandra Constaratas and Sidonie Rousseau) should be funded. However, Nathan Mertz received travel funding from IBI before so he cannot receive funding this time (as was specified in the call). The total PhD travel grant budget was 200000 NOK, but the total budget for the three PhD-students who will get a travel grant is only 80000 NOK. We discussed that it would be very good if the remaining 120000 of the original budget can be used for something else that benefit the PhD-students. Two ideas that came up were: 1) another travel grant application round in autumn, and 2)

a retreat for PhD's. We also recommend that the PhD-students themselves are allowed to give input on and decide on how they want to use this money. Henrik will inform Kjetil about this.